

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held in the Board Room, at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on Wednesday, May 31st, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., F.R.C.P., presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Letters were considered from the Manager of Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. with reference to the resolution as to the scheme of advertising through the medium of midwives adopted by the Company, which was passed by the Board at its last meeting. It was agreed that the Manager of Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Milk Co. be thanked for his letters, and that he be informed that the Board does not see its way to vary its decision at which it arrived at its last meeting.

A letter was considered from the Town Clerk of the Royal Borough of Kensington inquiring as to whether the time had not arrived when, in view of the prevalence of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, the Board might issue a direction to midwives in regard to the routine application of a suitable silver preparation to the eyes of all newly born infants. It was agreed that the Town Clerk of the Royal Borough of Kensington be informed that the matter which he mentions will be carefully considered.

A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives stating that the following Resolutions were passed at the Annual Meeting of the Association:—

(1) That the Central Midwives Board be approached with a view to its considering Rule E 12 at an early date.

A Deputation from this Association will be pleased to wait upon the Board if considered desirable.

(2) That in future in penal cases no charge shall be sent to the midwife until the Statutory Declaration signed by the Inspector has been received by the Central Midwives Board.

(Note.—With regard to Resolution (1) it is stated that the majority of Inspectors think that the midwives should, whenever possible, personally attend to the daily swabbing of the mother and the baby.)

It was recommended—

(a) That with regard to Resolution (1) the Board is of opinion that Rule E 12 should not be altered in the manner which it is understood is suggested, and further is of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by the attendance of a Deputation from the Association.

(b) That a Deputation be asked to meet the Secretary and the Solicitor on the matter.

A letter was read from Dr. Macrory enclosing the following Resolution passed by a Meeting of Inspectors of Midwives and Teachers of practical midwifery held on the 4th April, 1922, at the Midwives Institute:—

(1) That the period of training of pupil midwives should be lengthened.

(2) That midwives approved by the Central Midwives Board to teach practical midwifery should possess definite qualifications besides that of holding the Central Midwives Board Certificate.

It was agreed that the matter be considered at the next revision of the Rules.

APPLICATIONS.

For Approval as Teacher.—The following applications were granted:—Midwife Constance Dinah Thomas (No. 50589), Midwife Agnes Taylor (No. 22520), Midwife Margaret Dorothea Borrow (No. 48267).

CERTIFICATES TAMPERED WITH.

The Secretary reported that two certificates of birth or baptism had been tampered with by candidates for examination. It was decided, in the one case, not to admit the candidate to any examination prior to that of December, 1922, and that she be required to furnish fresh certificates of moral character; and in the other, that she be not admitted to any examination prior to that of August, 1923.

REDUCED PERIOD OF TRAINING.

Two applicants were granted permission to be admitted to examination on a reduced period of training, one on the ground that she held a certificate of the General Nursing Council, and had had three years' general training at the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and the other on the ground of three years' training at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

RECIPROCAL CERTIFICATION.

Midwife A. M. J. Lynch was admitted to the Roll having been trained at the Incorporated Belfast Maternity Hospital (being equivalent to the standard adopted by the Board, and accepted by the Central Midwives Board for Ireland).

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolutions of July 25th, 1918, and October 14th, 1920, he had placed the names of five midwives on the Roll who held a certificate of having passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland or the Central Midwives Board for Ireland.

REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL.

Nine midwives were removed from the Roll at their own request.

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